

WORK PROGRAMME 2010

CAPACITIES

PART 3

REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE

(European Commission C(2009) of)

Capacities Work Programme: Regions of Knowledge

The work programme presented here provides one call for proposals on 'Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters'. In addition to this, three other actions are dedicated for the organisation of a conference under the Spanish Presidency ; the setting up of an Expert Group on synergies between the Framework Programme, the Structural Funds and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme; and a study to assess the impact of the programme Regions of Knowledge.

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3. REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE

Objectives

Strengthening the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional “research-driven clusters” associating regional authorities, universities, research centres, enterprises and other stakeholders.

I. CONTEXT

The “*Regions of Knowledge*” initiative in FP7 responds to a need at European level to increase the overall capacity of regional players in enhancing science and technology based development. Its purpose is to enable regions to strengthen their capacity for investing in and conducting research and technological development activities in a way which can contribute significantly to economic development. This shall maximise the potential for a successful involvement of regional actors in the European Research Area (ERA).

To this end, Regions of Knowledge will support the cooperation, development and integration of **regional research-driven clusters**¹ on a transnational basis. For the implementation of this work programme, regions shall not necessarily be defined along administrative boundaries nor according to the European statistical NUTS nomenclature.

¹ Research-driven clusters must be composed of at least three types of legal entities (so called 'triple helix'), namely:

- legal entities conducting research (universities, research organisations and research for-profit bodies); national entities conducting research can be accepted if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and if the regional structure involved is located in the same region than the other components of the cluster;
- business entities (large enterprises and SMEs as defined in the EC recommendation 2003/361/CE of 6 May 2003, OJ L 124/36, 20/05/2003) or their local groupings;
- regional/local authorities (local and regional government, regional development agencies); national entities can be accepted to represent regional authorities either in small Member States made up of only one NUTS II region (plus Slovenia which has two NUTS II regions) or if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and their regional representation is located in (or is effectively in charge of) the same region than the other components of the cluster; specialised regional entities, like for example regional energy agencies, can be accepted if they are in charge of the design and/or the implementation of the relevant regional policy.

Where appropriate research-driven clusters may involve as well, in addition to the three previous categories, other regional/local entities such as technology transfer offices, chambers of crafts, commerce and industry, financial entities (such as banks and saving banks) and also management consultants (specialised consultants active in the technological or economic sector concerned can be accepted as representing the business side of the 'triple helix'). A science park is considered as an additional actor as well, unless it is established in the proposal that it represents a regional research-driven cluster according to the terms of the "approach for 2010" section on p 5,

Following the recommendations of the adopted guidelines² of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee of the EU (CREST) and the Communication from the Commission on the "Competitive European Regions through research and innovation: a contribution to more growth and more and better jobs"³, the "Regions of Knowledge" action will also seek to promote synergies between regional and research policies, primarily by supporting the development of regional research strategies which regional authorities can integrate into their economic development strategy as a basis for increased and more focused use of the Structural Funds as well as IPA (Instruments for Pre-accession Assistance) funds for R&D investment and activities. Activities will be implemented in close cooperation with the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), especially as regards the Entrepreneurship programme and its PRO-INNO Europe and Europe INNOVA components. Synergies will also be explored with the European Institute of Technology (EIT).

The "Regions of Knowledge" action therefore aims at:

- Fostering trans-national, including cross-border, co-operation between research driven clusters in areas or topics of common interest, either related to challenges from the globalisation of markets, technological change or the evolution of the research framework in the European context, as well as mutual learning between regional actors (legal entities conducting research, business entities, regional/local authorities)⁴ ;
- Improving links between regional authorities, legal entities conducting research and the local business community not only as partners in the development of specific goals or regional RTD policies, but also as joint partners in national or European initiatives;
- Developing joint action plans at the European level to increase regional economic competitiveness through research and technological development activities in traditional or emerging business sectors and by mobilising financial possibilities and other forms of support offered by national/regional authorities, the private sector and by Community programmes (Research Framework Programme, CIP and the Structural Funds), in order to exploit the synergies between regional, national and Community programmes for research and economic development;
- Supporting the internationalization of the regional research-driven clusters;
- Mentoring regions with a less developed research profile to support their capacity in setting up and developing regional research-driven clusters.

² "Coordinating the Framework Programme and the Structural Funds to support Research and Development" – CREST 1203/07 – 01.06.2007.

³ COM(2007) 474 final and SEC(2007)1045 – 16.08.2007.

⁴ Cross border cooperation for the implementation of this work programme is not limited to the eligible cross border regions (NUTS level III) of the Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Cohesion Policy and refers to adjacent regions generally. A regional research-driven cluster established across the border of two different countries will be considered as one cluster for the implementation of this work programme.

Special attention will be given to innovative approaches fostering worldwide competitiveness and sustainable development of the economic activity. However, it must be underlined that clusters must really be based on research and development.

Approach for 2010

Proposals under the "Regions of Knowledge" action will be submitted and the selected projects will only be coordinated, either by regional research-driven clusters established as a legal entity or by the regional/local authorities (or any regional entity they have mandated to implement their economic development and/or research and innovation policy⁵) involved in the existing clusters.

The cluster as a whole may be represented through one legal entity; the proposal should demonstrate that it conforms to the definition of a regional research-driven cluster.

If such a legal entity does not exist, two possibilities are proposed:

- a) a legal arrangement⁶ between the members exists for one member of the cluster to be allowed to legally represent all the others and the envisaged representative must have a clear mandate to represent and act on behalf of all other members of the 'research driven cluster'. Or,
- b) in cases where no legal entity can represent the cluster as a whole nor a representative can act on behalf of the other members, at least one legal entity conducting research, one business entity and one regional/local authority being part of the cluster shall be direct partners of the project consortium.

In any case each member of the cluster directly involved in the project's activities should be clearly identified in the proposal.

Clusters involved shall demonstrate in their proposal their current state of play in terms, for example, of membership (business and research entities), workforce (including researchers), number of students, turnover or GDP generated, foreign direct investment, R&D expenditure, collaborative projects, spin-offs, start-ups and patents generated, as well as services offered to their members and their financing. Partner entities conducting research have to be already and demonstrably involved in RTD activities supported by national, regional or European programmes that are closely linked to the economically relevant technological or scientific areas.

The clusters involved should also indicate in their proposal the potential for growth and competitiveness foreseen in the targeted sector through the proposed cooperation. Furthermore the proposed project should address the topic set out in this work programme

⁵ Or specialised regional agencies in charge of the design and/or implementation of the regional policy relevant for the project (see footnote n° 1).

⁶ It can be an existing legal arrangement or a legal arrangement specifically elaborated before the submission of the proposal (or before the entry into force of the grant agreement) but its scope can not be limited to the participation and the duration of the project and must cover other activities implemented by the cluster.

“*Regions of Knowledge*” will support consortia of partners representing at least three regional research-driven clusters from three different European Member States and/or Associated Countries.

The consultation process

Expert Groups' contributions have been taken into account and an FP7 Advisory Group for "Regions of Knowledge", representing public authorities and research entities has also contributed to the preparation of this action.

Activities

The 2010 Work Programme will develop "**Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters**" by covering the following activities:

- Analysis, development and implementation of research agendas
- Mentoring of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones
- Initiatives to improve integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies

II. CONTENT OF CALL

The activities listed on page 7 of this Work Programme will be implemented through the following area:

Area: 3.1. Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters

The "Regions of Knowledge" action supports the development, cooperation and integration of innovative and mature research-driven clusters in order to have more and better RTD investments at regional level and support European competitiveness worldwide. Projects must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential in their regions and should help actors in the regions to make the best use of EU instruments such as the Framework Programmes, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme or the Structural Funds.

Indicative available budget: EUR 16.95 million.

Topic: REGIONS-2010-1

Technical content/scope

In the 2010 call, proposals should support economic development, including through supporting the emergence of the e-health lead market as defined by the Lead Market Initiative⁷, by **boosting the competitiveness of health-related economy**.

The overall objective is to support the innovative capacity of European health-related industries and businesses (including hospitals), while improving the health of European citizens and addressing global health issues including major diseases, infectious or else (such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, chronic diseases or brain-related diseases), and emerging epidemics. All phases can be addressed, from prevention to diagnosis, treatment (including through new therapies, pharmaceutical products and medical technologies) and monitoring. Healthy ageing and child health, including nutritional/food aspects and pursuit of personalized healthcare are also covered.

Attention is drawn to the fact that activities targeting human reproductive cloning, intentional germ line modification and creation of human research embryos for research or stem cell procurement are excluded from support under the seventh framework programme⁸.

Projects should favour innovative and cross-disciplinary approaches, integrating for example nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, research on new (bio)materials and information and communication technologies for health.

⁷ See Commission communication, COM (2007) 860, 21/12/2007

⁸ See Decision n° 1982/2006/CE of 18/12/2006, art. 6 (OJ, L 412/1, 30/12/2006)

Type of activities/work

The activities listed on page 7 of this Work Programme and linked to the area of **Transnational cooperation** will be implemented through "Coordination and Support Actions" (**Coordinating Action (CSA-CA)**), which will support projects covering **all** of the following steps:

- **Analysis and integration of research agendas of regional clusters**

Project partners will perform a detailed analysis of the state of play of the identified research-driven clusters and of additional regional capabilities around which research could be carried out. For the selected topic, the analysis will involve the identification of relevant issues and components, including:

- The existing regional RTD policies, plans and activities, their evolution and their impact;
- Regional public and private RTD actors, including financial ones (e.g. banks, business angels), and infrastructure and facilities;
- The strengths and weaknesses of the regions concerned in terms of their capacity to produce, transfer and use knowledge;
- The existing regional cluster policy and initiatives;
- Economic development strengths, opportunities and needs, and economic development policies;
- European and international context, with a reference to possible links to existing European Technology Platforms, Joint Technology Initiatives or other European projects.

This analysis will cover the possibilities of synergies and opportunities for mutual learning and exchange of best practices as well as possibilities of mentoring (mandatory) for capacity building, with identification of the targeted emerging European clusters, if not already identified in the proposal⁹, and of cooperation possibilities between the regional actors involved in regional research driven clusters. It can also cover the preparation of an international cooperation strategy, with the identification of potential targeted clusters from third countries¹⁰ and of cooperation possibilities in RTD and innovation support services with these clusters.

It shall be made with the involvement of local stakeholders concerned as part of the consensus building and dissemination processes around the project.

⁹ In this case, the proposal should at least include a clear commitment to mentoring as well as the methodology and schedule to be followed to identify them.

¹⁰ Any country other than Member States or Associated Countries.

The output shall be a directory of RTD offer and demand, a global analysis including an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) from an economic and R&D perspective and an analysis of the complementarities of the partners involved in the consortium for the particular scientific and technological domain or economic sector targeted by the project. It shall also include an analysis of the complementarities of the emerging European clusters targeted for mentoring activities and, where appropriate, of the third country clusters targeted for international cooperation.

- **Initiatives to improve integration: definition of a Joint Action Plan**

Project partners will define a Joint Action Plan (JAP) that describes their strategy to drive economic development through research and technological development activities in a selected topic or economic sector. This JAP may comprise regionally specific activities. It will include the design of measures such as:

- Increasing researcher mobility, including mobility between research and industry;
- Improving and sharing RTD infrastructure and other facilities;
- Identifying relevant (collaborative) research related projects;
- Enhancing skills and knowledge transfer (including technology transfer) between business entities and between research entities and business entities, in particular SMEs, through networking;
- Improving availability of, and access to, SME and innovation support services, including the facilities provided under the cluster platforms financed by Europe INNOVA¹¹;
- Facilitating access to private and/or public funding for RTD and innovation, including through the implementation of pre-commercial procurement;
- Other relevant business support measures;
- International cooperation activities, such as visits, conferences, workshops, exchange of clusters' staff, in order to finalize the definition of the international strategy, and test it, if need be.

However, the Joint Action Plan **must** include the following measures:

- Mentoring activities for capacity building in regions with a less-developed research-profile so that they analyse the feasibility and define their own action plan for the setting up of new regional research-driven clusters;
- Dissemination activities through conferences, workshops, publications, web-based initiatives and any other relevant events or activities, including public awareness raising measures, especially among economic actors in their regions.

¹¹ (<http://www.europe-innova.org>).

This Joint Action Plan shall identify the partners involved, objectives, activities (what to do), responsibilities (who does what) and schedule for trans-national (European) and, if relevant, international cooperation with third countries.

This action plan shall include clear targets in terms of outputs for the measures it lists.

The Joint Action Plan shall also clearly define how the different measures foreseen will be funded by using possibilities available at national and at local level, including from the private sector, or at Community level (Framework Programmes, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, Structural Funds). The Action Plan should make clear the complementarities between the proposed actions and the EC regional policy programmes of the regions concerned.

- **Measures towards the implementation of the Joint Action Plan**

The specific measures identified for implementation in the Joint Action Plan (e.g., mobility, infrastructure, skills enhancement, access to finance, etc) will **not** be funded by the “Regions of Knowledge” activity per se.

However, the support activities relating to mentoring, international cooperation and dissemination will be funded under Regions of Knowledge. Other activities to support the implementation of the Joint Action Plan (e.g. through the outplacement of executives of the clusters' boards or management structure, other staff exchange or trust-building activities for members of the clusters, research intelligence, joint trainings, joint recruitment campaigns for research staff, identification and definition of research related projects...) can also be funded¹².

Proposals should show a balance between the budget devoted to the analysis and definition of the Joint Action Plan and the one earmarked for the second stage of the project for international cooperation, mentoring activities, dissemination and accompanying measures.

To further support the implementation of the Joint Action Plans in the future, Regions of Knowledge beneficiaries will be expected to take part in the European cluster alliance¹³ and the European Club of clusters managers, as well as to provide project descriptions and relevant data to be collected in the framework of the European cluster observatory, set up under Pro Inno Europe (<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.home>) and Europe INNOVA (<http://www.europe-innova.org>) respectively.

¹² Open business partnering events will not be funded under this call, but partners can take advantage of the opportunities offered in that respect under Europe INNOVA (<http://www.europe-innova.org>).

¹³ The European Cluster Alliance is an open platform that was established to maintain a permanent policy dialogue at EU level among national and regional public authorities responsible for developing cluster policies and managing cluster programmes in their countries (for more details, see: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=395&parentID=0&CFID=841422&CFTOKEN=92305399>).

Duration:

Projects are expected to be completed normally within 36 months. The definition of the Joint Action Plan is expected to be finalized during the first half of the project's duration.

Funding scheme:

The applied funding scheme is "Coordination and Support Actions" (**Coordinating Action (CSA-CA)**). The Community contribution to be envisaged for projects will be approximately from EUR 1 to 3 millions.

The Community financial contribution may reach a maximum of 100 % of the total eligible cost.

Expected impact:

- Developing and integrating research-driven clusters across Europe in order to promote regional economic development and worldwide competitiveness (increased cost-efficiency, increase in jobs, in FDI, in patents, additional GDP or growth in VA) in a particular scientific and technological topic, thereby facilitating in particular the emergence of lead markets;
- Delivering more effective investments in R&D at regional level through the definition and implementation of regional strategies based on business needs, which would mobilize European, national and regional funds and promote synergies notably with the Structural Funds and the CIP.
- Including more regions into the Regions of Knowledge initiative, into the knowledge economy and the ERA, especially through the mentoring of regions with a less developed research profile. Where appropriate, delivery of "guidance" solutions for those regions.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF CALL

Call title: Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters

- **Call identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2010-1**
- Date of publication: 31 July 2009¹⁴
- Deadline: 14 January 2010 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time¹⁵
- Indicative budget: EUR 16.95 million from 2010 budget¹⁶
- Topics called:

| Activity/ Area | Topics called | Funding Schemes |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Regions-2010-1. Transnational cooperation <u>between regional research-driven clusters</u></i> | In the 2010 call, proposals should support economic development by boosting the competitiveness of health-related economy. | CSA-CA (Coordinating Action) |

- Eligibility conditions:
 - The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable
 - The minimum number of participants: Consortia of partners representing a minimum of three regional research-driven clusters from at least three different European countries. Research-driven clusters must be composed of at least three types of legal entities (so called 'triple helix'), namely:
 - legal entities conducting research (universities, research organisations and research for-profit bodies); national entities conducting research can be accepted if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and if the regional structure involved is located in the same region than the other components of the cluster;
 - business entities (large enterprises and SMEs as defined in the EC recommendation 2003/361/CE of 6 May 2003, OJ L 124/36, 20/05/2003) or their local groupings;

¹⁴ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

¹⁵ At the time of the publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

¹⁶ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, , may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

- regional/local authorities (local and regional government, regional development agencies); national entities can be accepted to represent regional authorities either in small Member States made up of only one NUTS II region (plus Slovenia which has two NUTS II regions), or if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and their regional representation is located in (or is effectively in charge of) the same region as the other components of the cluster; specialised regional entities, like for example regional energy agencies, can be accepted if they are in charge of the design and/or the implementation of the relevant regional policy.

Where appropriate research-driven clusters may involve, in addition to the three previous categories, other regional/local entities such as technology transfer offices, chambers of crafts, commerce and industry, financial entities (such as banks and saving banks), as well as management consultants (specialised consultants active in the technological or economic sector concerned can be accepted for representing the business side of the 'triple helix'). A science park is considered as an additional actor as well, unless it is established in the proposal that it represents a regional research-driven cluster.

A regional research driven cluster as a whole may be represented through one legal entity. If such a legal entity does not exist, two possibilities are proposed:

- a). a legal arrangement¹⁷ between the members exists for one member of the cluster to be allowed to legally represent all the others and the envisaged representative must have a clear mandate to represent all other members of the 'research driven cluster'. Or,
- b). in cases where no legal entity can represent the cluster as a whole nor a representative can act on behalf of the other members, at least one legal entity conducting research, one business entity and one regional/local authority shall be direct partners of the project consortium.

In any case each member of the cluster directly involved in the project's activities should be clearly identified in the proposal.

Proposals must be submitted and the selected projects must only be coordinated, either by regional research-driven clusters established as a legal entity, or by regional/local authorities (or any regional entity they have mandated to implement their economic development and/or research and innovation policy¹⁸) involved in the existing clusters.

Restrictions on participation: *As described above under 'The minimum number of participants'.*

¹⁷ It can be an existing legal arrangement or a legal arrangement specifically elaborated before the submission of the proposal (or before the entry into force of the grant agreement) but its scope can not be limited to the participation and the duration of the project and must cover other activities implemented by the cluster.

¹⁸ Or specialised regional agencies in charge of the design and/or implementation of the relevant regional policy for the project.

The Community contribution to be envisaged for projects will be approximately from EUR 1 to 3 millions.

- Evaluation procedure:
 - The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria together with the eligibility, selection and award criteria, for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
 - The evaluation will follow a single stage procedure.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
 - Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable: *Evaluation results are estimated to be available within 4 months after the closure date; grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to a call will come into force 9 months after the closure date.*
- Consortia agreements: *Participants are encouraged, but not required, to conclude a consortium agreement.*
- The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.

IV. OTHER ACTIONS

IV.1. REGIONS Conference

Identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2010-2

Technical content / scope

This conference is meant to be both a dissemination event and a stocktaking exercise for this new initiative within FP 7, in the context of the rotating presidency of the Union.

All projects funded from 2007 to 2009 should be taking part to identify and display best practices in terms of

- methodological approaches and tools (including guidelines) developed,
- regional strategies and joint action plans defined,
- cluster cooperation,
- difficulties faced and solutions implemented/proposed
- and potential synergies with Structural Funds, CIP and any other sources of funding.

To be effective, such an event should be open as well to regions that are not direct partners to Regions of Knowledge projects in order to raise their awareness to such approaches and allow for networking between key regional stakeholders such as regional authorities or regional development agencies, but also research and innovation intermediaries and cluster organizations.

It will be held in conjunction with a similar conference on the Research Potential action (see action FP7-REGPOT-2010-2).

This conference will be part of the **European week of innovative regions** which will be composed of these two conferences and of a conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and innovation, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP (see action FP7-REGPOT-2010-4).

The 3 conferences may share some activities where appropriate.

The combined duration of the three events should be at most 5 days and they will be held in Granada.

Participants: Spanish presidency event; the beneficiary will be the *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación , Calle Albacete, 5, E-28027-Madrid*

The general eligibility, selection and award criteria are those set out in annex 2 to this work programme.

Schedule: March 2010

Funding scheme: CSA-SA¹⁹

The rate of co-financing will be up to 100 % for a maximum EC funding of EUR 150 000.

Expected impact:

This conference will help to raise awareness among regions about the benefits of getting involved into the ERA and more especially in Regions of Knowledge which expressly targets the regional level, as well as about the help it can bring in promoting potential synergies between FP 7 and the SF in supporting research and innovation. This shall be all the truer owing to the parallel organization of two other Spanish Presidency conferences, dedicated respectively to the funding of research and innovation through the Structural Funds and to results of projects funded under Research Potential.

This event should also help to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of Regions of Knowledge to support the transnational cooperation of regional research-driven clusters for the sake of European growth and competitiveness. Evidence of an impact of the projects funded on regional growth and competitiveness should in particular be examined.

IV.2. Expert group on synergies between FP, CIP and the Structural funds

Identifier: FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3

Technical content/scope

An Expert group will be set up to further explore the synergies between FP, the Structural Funds and CIP, based on the Commission's communication of 16/8/2007²⁰ and the ensuing Practical guide on synergies, as well as the report by CREST from May 2007²¹.

Schedule: first semester 2010

Funding scheme: expert group

Expected impact:

This Expert group should advice on the most appropriate ways to ensure synergies between the European programmes to best support research and innovation, including through the identification and promotion of best practices.

It should draw up recommendations regarding best ways for achieving efficient and effective synergies in the future; in particular it should provide recommendations for the future of Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge activities.

¹⁹ See Articles 14a of the EC Rules for Participation

²⁰ COM(2007) 414 on "Competitive European regions through research and innovation".

²¹ Guidelines on Coordinating the Research Framework Programme and the Structural Funds to support research and development, 7/5/2007 (CREST 1203/07).

Budget:

The work of this group is of relevance for both Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge activities. Therefore, the estimated costs of the Expert group will be shared between both activities. Regions of Knowledge will contribute for an amount of EUR 50,000.00

IV.3. Study to assess the impact of Regions of Knowledge

Identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2010-4

Technical content/scope:

Considering that Regions of Knowledge is a new initiative under FP7, a first impact assessment should be carried out in 2010, when the first wave of projects will be finished and two others will be on-going, including those funded under the 2009 work programme, which introduced a strategic repositioning of the initiative to try and maximise its impact with regard to European growth and competitiveness.

Having regard to its aims²², this study should look at the impact of the Regions of Knowledge action regarding

- the transnational cooperation of clusters and the emergence of European networks on the global stage,
- regional growth and competitiveness,
- the regional investment in research and innovation and the ability to mobilize all types of funding therefore, including potential synergies with Structural funds, CIP and any other source of funding,
- the inclusion of more regions into the ERA.

The analysis should include a comparative dimension to benchmark its effectiveness with that of other programmes, in particular Structural Funds and programmes at national level.

It should also identify current limitations under the present legal framework and should formulate some recommendations on possible ways to increase further the impact of the projects to be funded under the current programming period and for the future.

Schedule: beginning of second semester 2010

Funding scheme: CSA²³ - public procurement within the frame of the Commission's evaluation multiple framework contract

Budget: EUR 250,000.00

²² As outlined in the Context section of this Work Programme (see page 4).

²³ See Articles 14b of the EC Rules for Participation

Indicative budget²⁴ for the Regions of Knowledge activity for the 2010 Work Programme

| | Indicative budget 2010 |
|---|--------------------------|
| Call FP 7-REGIONS-2010-1 | EUR 16.95 million |
| 2010 Expert evaluators | EUR 0.19 million |
| Action FP7-REGIONS-2010-2 (REGIONS Conference) - <i>European week of innovative regions</i> | EUR 0.15 million |
| Action FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3 (Expert group on synergies between FP 7, CIP and the Structural Funds) | EUR 0.05 million |
| Action FP7-REGIONS-2010-4 (Impact assessment study) | EUR 0.25 million |
| INDICATIVE TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION | EUR 17.59 million |

Budget figures in this work programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Following the evaluation of proposals the final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call, and
- any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

²⁴ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for the call FP7-REGIONS-2010-1 is indicative: the final total budget awarded to this call, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call. The final total budget awarded to 2009 Experts evaluators may vary by up to 20%.

The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions. The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budgets for these actions.

V INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS - 2011

In 2011 the projects are expected to address the following area: Sustainable transport.